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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Application of:

Applicant: Sasaki et al.

Conf. No. 2255

Serial No.: 09/559,138

Filed: April 27, 2000

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Art Unit: 2132

Examiner: Darrow, Justin T.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

3/28/05

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114 (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of a European Search Report, foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office			Attorney Docket No.: 0941.63996	Serial No.: 09/559,138		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Applicant: Sasaki et al.			
			Filing Date: April 27, 2000	Group: 2132		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	2002/0002681	Jan. 3, 2002	Kawano et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
	EP 0 816 967 A2	Jan. 7, 1998	EP			X
	11-39219	Feb. 12, 1999	Japan			*
	EP 0 837 383 A2	Apr. 22, 1998	EP			X
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
Examiner	Date Considered					
*Examiner:	Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.					

*Corresponds to US Patent Application No. 2002/0002681